

Practitioner's Docket No.: 2002DE005
Serial No.: 10/524,931
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Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for the brightening of a polyester synthetic fiber or plastic comprising the step of adding at least one ~~incorporating a~~ granulated optical brightener during a transesterification or esterification process or during polycondensation into the synthetic fiber or plastic, wherein the granulated optical brightener ~~has at least one optical brightener and~~ is obtained by compacting a powder which consists of an optical brightener in powder form in a pressure compactor under a pressure of from 3 to 50 kNewton/cm of tube length to form a compactate and comminuting the compactate to from the granulated optical brightener.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one optical brightener of the granulated optical brightener absorbs in the range from 260 to 400 nm and emits in the visible spectrum at from 400 to 450 nm.

3. through 7. (cancelled)

8. (withdrawn) A brightened synthetic fiber made in accordance with process of claim 1.

9. (withdrawn) A brightened plastic made in accordance with process of claim 1.

10. (withdrawn) A brightened synthetic fiber made in accordance with process of claim 6.

11. (withdrawn) A brightened plastic made in accordance with process of claim 6.